

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3367
ANSWERED ON:12.02.2014
REMOVAL OF TURBANS AT AIRPORTS
Badal Harsimrat Kaur

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of instances of sikhs being asked to take off their turbans at airports for security check reported from countries abroad during the last three years, country and year-wise;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the mass protests by sikh groups world wide against such incidents; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to deal with the situation?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) The required information is placed at Annexure 'A'.

(b) & (c) No mass protests were reported on these incidents. However, the Government is sensitive to the representations received from the Sikh community from time to time regarding security checks at the airports. The matter had been taken up with respective Governments at high levels. We have conveyed that security screening of members of Sikh community at airports should be carried out with due sensitivity and without disrespecting their religious sentiments.